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State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 19, 1989

Commissioner Jim Reidhead, Chairman Uintah County Commission County Building 152 East 100 North Vernal, Utah 84078

Dear Commissioner Reidhead:

Re: <u>Uintah County Asphalt Mine</u>, <u>Asphalt Ridge</u>, <u>M/047/022</u>, <u>Uintah County</u>, <u>Utah</u>

Representatives of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and Uintah County have been corresponding regarding formulation of a mining and reclamation permit for the above-referenced mine operated by Uintah County. We appreciate the effort required by the County to write such a plan and understand that Notice of Tentative Approval for this mine was issued by the Division on August 26, 1988.

Typically, formal approval of a mining and reclamation permit is given after the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining has approved the form and amount of surety posted by the operator of the mine. The Division can accept a Board Contract as appropriate surety from a mine, but Uintah County's correspondence of October 6, 1988 has deemed this formal contractual obligation unnecessary.

We understand that a substantial amount of reclamation was accomplished at this site in the fall of 1988. We appreciate Uintah County's commitment to this reclamation effort.

Rather than belabor the bonding issue, the Board would propose that Division staff and representatives of Uintah County meet annually, on site, and discuss the success of the reclamation and operational elements as enumerated in the approved reclamation permit. As long as both parties are satisfied that the mining and

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reclamation plan is being successfully implemented, formal bonding on the part of Uintah County may be waived by the Division. The Board would welcome an opportunity to overview this operation on a future trip to Vernal.

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Williams Chairman

ksg cc: D. R. Nielson

L. P. Braxton

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